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NONWHITE POPULATION CHANGES IN CHICAGO'S SUBURBS

State of Illinois

WILLIAM G. STRATTON, GOVERNOR

Prepared By

Mirro Romanow
Research Supervisor

Illinois Commission on Human Relations
160 North LaSalle Street
Chicago 1, Illinois

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NONWHITE POPULATION CHANGES IN CHICAGO'S SUBURBS

Since the 1950 Census, the Chicago Metropolitan Area has experienced rapid growth in its nonwhite population. Most publicity has been given to this growth in the city of Chicago, but the nonwhite population in the suburban areas has been increasing at an even faster rate. A comparison of this growth in the two sections is presented in the following table.

TABLE 1. NONWHITE POPULATION GROWTH IN THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AREA: 1950-1955*

	City of Chicago		Metropolitan Area Outside City	
Year	Nonwhite Population	Percent Increase	Nonwhite Population	Percent Increase
1955	633,000	24.3	122,000	27.3
1950	509,437	80.5	95,801	82.1
1940	282,244	17.9	52,621	16.8
1930	239,345	112.7	45,042	174.8
1920	112,536	143.4	16,388	182.9
1910	46,226	47.1	5,793	43.3
1900	31,435	-----	4,043	-----

*The decennial census data is taken from O & B Duncan, The Negro Population of Chicago, 1957; p. 300. The 1955 figures are estimates made by Donald Bogue, An Estimate of Metropolitan Chicago's Population: 1955 and 1965, The Chicago Community Inventory.

The Standard Metropolitan area of Chicago is composed of Cook, Lake, Kane, Du Page, and Will Counties in Illinois; and Lake County in Indiana. The area outside the city of Chicago, then, contains a tremendous variety of communities, and it is apparent that the "Metropolitan Ring" cannot be considered as a unit.

Partly reflecting variety in the suburbs, there is an uneven distribution of nonwhites in the various suburbs and suburban areas. In 1950 for instance, forty-two percent of all suburban nonwhites lived in Gary, while an additional ten percent lived in East Chicago. Thus, over fifty percent of all suburban nonwhites lived in only two of the more than 200 suburbs in the Metropolitan area.

Since 1950, 137 of the 195 suburbs in the Illinois portion of the area have conducted special censuses. Thus, for the great majority of suburbs, late population figures, by color, are available. The results of these special censuses, according to geographical areas, will be presented in the following pages. An examination of these results will indicate the distribution of nonwhite population by area and suburbs, and the relative growth of total and nonwhite populations in the different areas. The areas considered are Lake, Kane, and DuPage Counties, and the following sections of Cook County: 1) North - including those suburbs located in Evanston, Niles, Northfield and New Trier Townships. 2) Northwest - including suburbs located in Maine, Elk Grove, Schaumberg, Hanover, Barrington, Palatine, and Wheeling Townships, and Leyden Township north of Irving Park Road. 3) West - including all western Cook County suburbs south of Irving Park Road and north of the Drainage Canal. 4) Southwest - including all suburbs south of the drainage canal except those in the five townships included in the south section. 5) South - including all suburbs located in Calumet, Bremen, Thornton, Rich and Bloom Townships. Lake County Indiana is not included because our focus of interest is Illinois, and Will County is omitted because too few special censuses have been conducted. Unincorporated areas are not included unless they exceed 1,000 in population and are not in the Chicago Urbanized Area.

In the tables, the following supplementary information will be given. 1) 1950 Census data for suburbs not conducting special censuses. 2) The 1950 population of all the towns in the area. 3) The nonwhite increase in the special census towns. 4) The latest available population of all towns in the area; derived

by adding special census totals to the 1950 totals of towns not conducting special censuses. 5) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in the area derived in the same manner as "4" above. 6) The approximate percent nonwhites in all towns in the area obtained by dividing latest available nonwhites by latest available total populations.

These figures will not present a precise picture of population distribution or trends because there have probably been changes since each census was taken. In addition some towns have been incorporated since 1950 and no 1950 Census data is available. Further, the Census data did not indicate population by color for towns of less than 1,000. In all of the latter cases, it has been assumed that no changes in nonwhite population have occurred.

The United States Census definition of "nonwhite" includes Negroes, Indians, Japanese, Chinese and other nonwhite races. Mexicans are included only if they are definitely Indian in appearance. In the Chicago Metropolitan Area, 96.9 percent of all nonwhites are Negroes, so "nonwhite" figures are virtually the same as "Negro" figures for most suburbs. All special censuses reported by the Bureau of the Census up to August 1, 1958, are included.

TABLE 2. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON LAKE COUNTY TOWNS

Town	Special Census Year	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Antioch	56	1,307	1,802	495	37.9	0
Barrington	55	4,209	4,797	588	14.0	6
Deerfield	57	3,288	7,609	4,321	131.4	4
Fox Lake	58	2,238	3,897	1,659	74.1	2
Grays Lake	54	1,970	2,704	734	37.3	1
Gurnee	55	1,097	1,592	495	45.1	0
Highland Park	54	16,808	20,480	3,672	21.8	508
Highwood	55	3,813	4,121	308	8.1	4
Lake Bluff	57	2,000	2,978	978	48.9	13
Lake Forest	55	7,819	8,963	1,144	14.6	252
Lake Zurich	56	850	2,613	1,763	207.4	0
Libertyville	54	5,425	6,561	1,136	20.9	9
Lindenhurst	58	+	916	+	+	2
Mundelein	58	3,189	9,744	6,555	205.6	24
North Chicago	55	8,628	16,881	8,253	95.7	3,343
Round Lake	57	573	887	314	54.8	1
Round Lake Beach	56	1,892	4,045	2,153	113.8	0
Round Lake Park	55	1,836	2,516	680	37.0	0
Wauconda	55	1,173	2,373	1,200	102.3	0
Waukegan	55	38,946	46,698	7,752	19.9	3,729
Winthrop Harbor	55	1,765	2,771	1,006	57.0	0
Zion	57	8,950	10,790	1,840	20.6	447
TOTALS		117,776	165,738	47,046	39.9	8,345

TABLE 2a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON LAKE COUNTY TOWNS*
(These towns have not had special censuses)

Town	1950 Census Total	1950 Census Nonwhite
Bannockburn	249	Not available
Channel	1,218	0
Dunes Park	1,762	1
Hainesville	154	Not available
Lake Villa	824	Not available
Long Lake	2,637	0
TOTALS	6,844	1

NOTES:

1) 1950 population of all towns in county--124,620
2) Latest available population of all towns in county--172,582
3) Nonwhite increase in special census towns--4,251 (103.9)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in county--8,346
5) Approximate percent nonwhites in all towns in county--5%

* Three Lake County military installations, Great Lakes, Ft. Sheridan, and Downey may also include substantial numbers of nonwhites.

\+ Lindenhurst not incorporated in 1950

TABLE 3. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON KANE COUNTY TOWNS

Town	Special Census	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Aurora	56	50,576	56,766	6,190	12.2	1,632
Batavia	56	5,838	6,647	809	13.9	212
Carpentersville	58	1,523	12,559	11,036	724.6	4
East Dundee	56	1,466	1,904	438	29.9	7
Elgin	56	44,223	47,565	3,342	7.6	1,134
Geneva	56	5,139	6,418	1,279	24.9	208
Montgomery	55	773	1,720	947	122.5	0
North Aurora	57	921	1,310	389	42.2	5
Saint Charles	55	6,709	7,716	1,007	15.0	31
South Elgin	56	1,220	1,719	499	40.9	20
		118,388	144,324	25,936	22.0	3,253

TABLE 3a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON KANE COUNTY TOWNS
(These towns have not had special censuses)

Town	1950 Census Total	1950 Census Nonwhite
Burlington	262	Not available
Elburn	792	Not available
Fox River Heights	1,083	0
Gilberts	183	Not available
Hampshire	970	Not available
Maple Park	433	Not available
Pingree Grove	162	Not available
Scraper-Moecherville	2,922	10
South Park	2,063	24
West Dundee	1,948	0
TOTALS	10,818	34

Notes:
1) 1950 population of all towns in county--117,467
2) Latest available population of all towns in county--155,142
3) Nonwhite increase in special census towns--908 (38.2%)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in county--3,287
5) Approximate percent nonwhites in all towns of county--2%

TABLE 4. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON DUPAGE COUNTY TOWNS

Town	Special Census	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Addison	58	813	4,834	4,021	494.6	4
Bensenville	55	3,754	5,451	1,697	45.2	5
Clarendon Hills	55	2,437	4,620	2,183	89.6	2
Downer's Grove	57	11,886	19,681	7,795	65.6	24
Elmhurst	57	21,273	34,654	13,381	62.9	19
Glen Ellyn	57	9,524	14,372	4,848	50.9	44
Hinsdale	55	8,676	11,324	2,648	30.5	78
Itasca	58	1,274	3,151	1,877	147.3	0
Lombard	57	9,817	18,468	8,651	88.1	4
Roselle	57	1,038	2,314	1,276	122.9	0
Villa Park	57	8,821	15,600	6,779	76.8	11
West Chicago	56	3,973	5,316	1,343	33.8	4
Westmont	53	3,402	4,356	954	28.0	0
Wheaton	53	11,638	16,001	4,363	37.5	273
Winfield	56	714	1,189	475	66.5	0
Wood Dale	54	1,857	2,308	451	24.3	1
		100,897	163,639	62,742	62.1	469

TABLE 4a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON DUPAGE COUNTY TOWNS
(These towns have not had special censuses)

Town	Total	Nonwhite
Bloomingdale	339	Not available
Naperville	7,031	11
Warrenville	1,891	2
TOTALS	9,261	13

Notes:

1) 1950 population of all towns in county--110,158
2) Latest available population of all towns in county--172,900
3) Nonwhite increase in special census towns of county--10 (2.2%)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in county--482
5) Approximate percent nonwhites in all towns of county--0.3%

TABLE 5. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON NORTH SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS

Town	Special Census Year	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Evanston	55	73,641	74,959	1,318	1.8	7,832
Glencoe	57	6,980	9,805	2,825	40.5	645
Glenview	56	6,142	13,470	7,328	119.3	1
Golf	58	258	428	170	65.9	4
Lincolnwood	57	3,072	10,490	7,418	241.5	52
Morton Grove	58	3,926	16,643	12,717	323.9	65
Niles	57	3,587	13,949	10,362	288.9	6
Northbrook	58	3,348	10,853	7,505	224.2	23
Northfield	56	1,426	3,160	1,734	121.6	20
Skokie	58	14,832	52,147	37,315	251.6	161
Wilmette	58	18,162	24,830	6,668	36.7	116
Winnetka	55	12,105	13,058	953	7.9	295
TOTALS		147,479	243,792	96,313	65.5	9,220

TABLE 5a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON NORTH SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS
(This town has not had a special census)

Town	Total	Nonwhite
Kenilworth	2,789	84

Notes:

1) 1950 population of all towns in area--150,268
2) Latest available population of all towns in area--246,581
3) Nonwhite increase in special census towns--1,099 (13.5%)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in area--9,303
5) Approximate percent nonwhites in all towns in area--4%

TABLE 6. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS

Town	Special Census	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Arlington Heights	58	8,768	23,128	14,360	163.8	7
Bartlett	57	716	1,334	618	86.3	20
Des Plaines	58	14,994	30,712	15,718	104.8	24
Elk Grove	58	*	3,063	*	*	0
Harwood Heights	58	655	4,880	4,225	645.0	4
Mount Prospect	58	4,009	15,921	11,912	297.1	6
Norridge	56	3,428	4,596	1,168	34.1	11
Palatine	59	4,079	10,161	6,082	149.1	16
Park Ridge	57	16,602	27,590	10,988	66.2	19
Rolling Meadows	57	*	8,416	*	*	0
Schiller Park	57	1,384	3,555	2,171	156.9	5
Wheeling	58	916	6,162	5,246	572.7	5
TOTALS		55,551	139,518	72,488	130.4	117

TABLE 6a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON NORTHWEST SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS
(These towns have not had special censuses)

Town	Total	Nonwhite
Inverness	1,100	0

Notes:

* Rolling Meadows and Elk Grove not incorporated in 1950

1) 1950 population of all towns in area--56,651
2) Latest available population of all towns in area--140,618
3) Nonwhite increase in special census towns--45 (62.5)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in area--117
5) Approximate percent nonwhites in all towns in area--0.1

TABLE 7. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON WEST SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS

Towns	Special Census Year	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Bellwood	57	8,746	17,933	9,187	105.0	13
Berkeley	56	1,882	5,263	3,381	179.6	0
Berwyn	56	51,280	52,576	1,296	2.5	41
Broadview	54	5,196	6,928	1,732	33.3	52
Brookfield	56	15,472	19,588	4,116	26.6	12
Cicero	54	67,544	67,989	445	0.7	23
Elmwood Park	54	18,801	21,554	2,753	14.6	10
Forest View	56	291	1,006	715	245.7	13
Franklin Park	57	8,899	16,176	7,277	81.8	12
Hillside	57	2,131	6,569	4,438	208.3	26
Hodgkins	55	536	1,023	487	90.9	3
LaGrange	56	12,002	14,611	2,609	21.7	1,064
LaGrange Park	58	6,176	13,391	7,215	116.8	20
Lyons	57	6,120	9,061	2,941	48.1	7
Melrose Park	57	13,366	18,797	5,431	40.6	111
North Lake	57	4,361	11,589	7,228	165.7	11
North Riverside	56	3,230	7,147	3,917	121.3	84
Oak Park	56	63,529	61,326	-2,203	-3.5	139
River Grove	54	4,839	7,070	2,231	46.1	13
Riverside	57	9,153	9,836	683	7.5	4
Stickney	53	3,317	4,594	1,277	38.5	1
Stone Park	58	1,414	2,476	1,062	75.1	4
Westchester	56	4,308	12,710	8,402	195.0	0
Western Springs	56	6,364	9,097	2,733	42.9	3
TOTALS		318,957	398,310	79,353	24.9	1,666

TABLE 7a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON WEST SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS
(These towns have not conducted special censuses)

Town	Total	Nonwhite
Forest Park	14,969	13
McCook	361	Not available
Maywood	27,473	2,520
River Forest	10,823	49
TOTALS	53,626	2,582

Notes:
1) 1950 population of all towns in area--372,587
2) Latest available population of all towns in area--451,936
3) Nonwhite increase in special census towns--157 (10.4%)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in area--4,248
5) Approximate percent nonwhite in all towns of area--1%

TABLE 8. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS

Town	Special Census Year	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Alsip	56	1,228	2,814	1,586	129.2	45
Bridge View	55	1,393	3,120	1,727	124.0	0
Chicago Ridge	57	888	4,680	3,792	427.0	21
Evergreen Park	58	10,531	22,375	11,844	112.5	11
Hickory Hills	56	*	1,261	*	*	0
Hometown	58	*	7,646	*	*	0
Justice	57	854	2,407	1,553	181.9	1
Merrionette Park	55	1,101	2,330	1,229	111.6	0
Oak Lawn	58	8,751	21,943	13,192	150.7	11
Orland Park	58	788	1,426	638	81.0	5
Palos Park	55	854	1,665	811	95.0	4
Willow Springs	58	1,314	2,133	819	62.3	1
Worth	58	1,472	7,852	6,380	433.4	0
		29,174	81,652	43,571	149.2	99

TABLE 8a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON SOUTHWEST SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS
(These towns have not had special censuses)

Town	Total	Nonwhite
B edford Park	651	Not available
Lemont	2,757	1
Summit	8,957	1,154
	12,365	1,155

Notes:
* Hickory Hills and Hometown not incorporated in 1950
1) 1950 population of all towns in area--41,539
2) Latest available population of all towns in area--94,017
3) Nonwhite increase in special census towns--7 (7.6%)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in area--1,254
5) Approximate percent nonwhites in all towns of area--1.3%

TABLE 9. RECENT CENSUS DATA ON SOUTH SUBURBAN COOK COUNTY TOWNS

Town	Special Census	1950 Census	Special Census	Increase	Percent of Increase	Nonwhites in Special Census
Burnham	58	1,331	2,245	914	68.7	0
Calumet City	54	15,799	19,066	3,267	20.7	52
Calumet Park	58	2,500	7,387	4,887	195.5	40
Chicago Heights	57	24,551	28,942	4,391	17.9	5,746
Dixmoor	57	1,327	2,811	1,484	111.8	1,204
Dolton	57	5,558	13,102	7,544	135.7	2
Flossmoor	56	1,804	3,889	2,085	115.6	23
Harvey	55	20,683	23,714	3,031	14.7	1,327
Hazel Crest	56	2,129	4,810	2,681	125.9	0
Homewood	58	5,887	13,026	7,139	121.3	12
Lansing	56	8,682	15,675	6,993	80.5	4
Markham	57	2,753	6,682	3,929	142.7	762
Matteson	57	1,211	2,620	1,409	116.4	0
Midlothian	54	3,216	4,344	1,128	35.1	0
Oak Forest	55	1,856	2,347	491	26.5	7
Park Forest	57	8,138	27,967	19,829	243.7	138
Phoenix	58	3,606	4,128	522	14.5	2,551
Posen	57	1,795	3,055	1,260	70.2	2
Riverdale	56	5,840	10,017	4,177	71.5	0
South Chgo. Heights	56	2,129	3,020	891	41.9	13
South Holland	58	3,247	8,257	5,010	154.3	4
Steger	58	4,358	5,388	1,030	23.6	24
Thornton	57	1,217	2,383	1,166	95.8	0
Tinley Park	58	2,326	5,366	3,040	130.7	1
TOTALS		131,943	220,241	88,298	66.9	11,912

TABLE 9a. 1950 CENSUS DATA ON INCORPORATED SOUTH SUBURBAN TOWNS
(These have not conducted special censuses)

Town	1950 Census	1950 Nonwhites
Blue Island	17,622	46
Crestwood	739	Not available
East Chicago Heights	1,548	1,190
East Hazel Crest	1,066	98
Glenwood	762	Not available
Olympia Fields	160	Not available
Richton Park	232	Not available
Robbins	4,766	4,730
TOTALS	26,895	6,064

Notes:
1) 1950 population of all towns in area--158,838
2) Latest available population of all towns in area--247,136
33) Nonwhite increase in special census towns--4,537 (61.5%)
4) Latest available nonwhite population of all towns in area--17,976
5) Approximate percent nonwhites in all towns of area--7%

In the preceding tables, total and nonwhite special census data has been presented for 133 towns, and 1950 data for an additional 36 towns. Only 25 of these have a substantial nonwhite population; which in this report is defined as at least 2.5 percent nonwhite, or a minimum of 250 nonwhites. Changes in the percentage nonwhite in each of these towns, from 1940 to the special census year, are presented in Table 10 according to area.

TABLE 10. PERCENT NONWHITE IN 25 SUBURBAN TOWNS: 1940--LATEST CENSUS, BY AREA

Town	1940 Percent Nonwhite	1950 Percent Nonwhite	Special Census Percent Nonwhite
		Lake County	
Highland Park	1.6	2.4	2.5
Lake Forest	2.4	2.3	2.8
North Chicago	7.5	9.7	19.8
Waukegan	3.4	6.0	8.0
Zion	1.0	3.1	4.1
		Kane County	
Aurora	2.1	2.3	2.9
Batavia	1.2	2.1	3.2
Elgin	1.2	1.9	2.4
Geneva	3.9	3.0	3.3
		DuPage County	
Wheaton	1.2	2.2	1.7
		North Cook County	
Evanston	9.3	9.7	10.4
Glencoe	4.4	6.5	6.6
Kenilworth	4.4	3.0	*
Winnetka	2.3	2.6	2.3
		West Cook County	
LaGrange	4.4	8.5	7.3
Maywood	4.6	9.2	*
		Southwest Cook County	
Summit	8.3	12.9	*
		South Cook County	
Chicago Heights	9.9	16.8	19.8
Dixmoor	19.3	41.7	42.8
East Chicago Hghts.	*	76.9	*
East Hazel Crest	*	9.2	*
Harvey	3.1	4.9	5.6
Markham	0.0	2.4	9.7
Phoenix	19.7	40.7	61.8
Robbins	96.9	99.2	*

*Data not available

A June 21, 1957 press release of the Chicago Community Inventory, University of Chicago, estimated that the total population of the Standard Metropolitan Area increased 11 percent. At the same time, nonwhite population increased by 39 percent. Against this background of moderate total growth and rapid nonwhite growth, it is interesting to compare the growth experience of the special census suburbs. A comparison of all twenty-five towns, with a substantial nonwhite population, in 1950 and the special census years reveals trends in nonwhite population growth and distribution. There was already in 1950 a very uneven distribution of nonwhites throughout the suburbs. The great increase of nonwhites has not meant a greater distribution among the various suburbs. Of the twenty-five towns, only one, Markham would not have been considered as substantially nonwhite in 1950. Further, Markham is the only one of these latter suburbs which had no nonwhites in 1940. Nonwhite suburban growth, then, has resulted largely from expansion and further concentration of previously settled nonwhite areas.

No one single factor determines nonwhite suburban settlement patterns. In the suburbs of Lake Forest, Highland Park, Glencoe, Kenilworth and Winnetka, the nonwhites are primarily service workers employed in North Shore homes. A state institution for girls is responsible for the large number of nonwhites in Geneva. The census sex ratio figures for the above towns indicate the nonwhite population is predominantly female reflecting those situations. Thus, the number of suburbs in which nonwhites reside on a comparable socio-economic status with white neighbors can be reduced to nineteen.

Another economic reason for the settlement of nonwhites is the proximity of heavy industry which employs a high proportion of nonwhite workers. Examples of such towns are North Chicago, Maywood, and Chicago Heights. Such towns as Robbins, East Chicago Heights, and Markham, are primarily residential suburbs for nonwhites who work elsewhere. In this latter group, there is probably some element of self-segregation with nonwhites moving there in order to be near relatives or friends.

Factors which may tend to segregate nonwhites out of some suburbs may be the lack of the employment opportunities described above. A further factor in "expensive" suburbs may be the inability of nonwhites, most of whom are in relatively low economic groups, to purchase homes.

One further factor which strongly influences concentration of nonwhites in a few suburbs is housing discrimination in the great majority of the predominantly white suburbs. This discrimination may take the form of violence, as in Cicero, or it may be more subtle discrimination in the form of simple refusals to sell to nonwhites, or socio-economic pressures. However, regardless of the factors involved, Chicago's suburbs have devebped a high degree of racial segregation. This residential segregation, in turn, tends to promote segregation in economic, social, political, and cultural and religious life.

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